

THANKING DOUG MATTSO FOR HIS SERVICE ON THE UNITED AIRLINES MASTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Doug Mattson for his work on the United Airlines Master Executive Council Legislative Committee.

A Washington native, Doug went on to serve honorably in the United States Air Force. During his time in service, Doug Mattson flew T-37s, T-43s, and C-40Bs and went on to finish his time in the military as a Captain.

After his service to our country, Doug couldn't keep his feet on the ground and became a pilot for United Airlines flying Boeing 787s. For the last eight years, he served on the Executive Council Legislative Committee where he worked to protect and promote the careers of pilots, concentrating on safety, pay, working conditions, benefits, and job security. He played a key role in preparing the next generation of pilot advocates to lead on these key issues.

Doug provided a steady hand over his eight years and is an Air Line Pilots Association member his colleagues came to depend on. His ability to mentor pilots of varying political persuasions is a testament to his commitment to ensuring that the Executive Council Legislative Committee fulfilled its duty to ensure that pilots voices are heard on Capitol Hill. No matter the day or flight, he always had a smile on his face.

Even though Doug has been busy dividing time between flying and advocating for pilots nationwide, he is a family man and enjoys spending time with his lovely wife Sharon, and their two sons Eric and Cameron.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to thank Doug Mattson for the time he spent advocating for his fellow pilots on the United Airlines Master Executive Council Legislative Committee.

### HONORING AZERBAIJAN ON ITS 103RD REPUBLIC DAY

### HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2021*

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to recognize Azerbaijan on the occasion of its 103rd Republic Day.

Azerbaijan has a proud history as an independent country, beginning in 1918. With its independence, Azerbaijan became the very first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world. Azerbaijan was also among the first states to grant women the right to vote. Azerbaijan's commitment to these values shows the world that they are truly universal, and that self-government and the respect for individual rights is not inimical to Islamic traditions. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan's independ-

ence was soon snuffed out by the totalitarian USSR, which sought to spread values much different to those espoused by the fledgling Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan regained its independence. 2021 is particularly notable in this regard as it marks the thirtieth anniversary of this event.

Today, Azerbaijan remains a close partner to the United States and our allies. Throughout the United States' and NATO's long deployment to Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has been integral in ensuring stable lines of communication to the country and has partnered with us in the wider war on terror. Additionally, I find it significant and praiseworthy that as a Muslim country, Azerbaijan maintains strong relations with the Jewish community and with our ally Israel, and has done so for some time. Finally, Azerbaijan is a key energy provider for Europe, helping our allies there diversify their energy supply away from Vladimir Putin's Russia. And Azerbaijan's importance as an energy provider will only grow as a result of the opening of the Southern Gas Corridor last December.

Keeping in mind our relationship with Azerbaijan and its commitment to this partnership, I would encourage my colleagues to join me today in honoring Azerbaijan on its Republic Day.

### STEVEN CHOTIN

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Chotin of Denver, Colorado who passed away on May 15, 2021.

Steven was born in St. Louis, Missouri to Miriam and Alfred Chotin. He was the only son and middle child of two sisters. He graduated from Ladue High School and attended the University of Oklahoma for a brief time. He moved to Denver, Colorado in 1973 to reorganize a company that was owned by a family friend. Shortly after he moved, he met his wife, Robin Cohen, and they were married at Beth Joseph Congregation in 1974. Prior to founding his own company, Steven worked for MDC Holdings where he played a primary role in developing their mortgage banking business.

In 1984, Steven founded The Chotin Group Corporation. Since inception, the firm successfully invested in structured financial products and real estate opportunities where he was instrumental in creating mortgage-backed securities. Throughout his career, Steven was a strong supporter of social and political causes in the Denver Jewish community, throughout the country, and Israel and the diaspora.

In addition to his family office, most recently, Steven and Robin established The Chotin Foundation which is dedicated to improving and enriching the lives of individuals, children, and families with particular interest in Jewish causes as well as secular charitable initiatives in the areas of arts and culture, education, and health and wellness. In addition, he had a genuine interest in local, state, and national politics.

Steven was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather. Steven and Robin

raised five children and enjoyed time with their grandchildren—Jaxon, Caden, Coco, Harper, Crew, Cole and Parker. I am deeply grateful for his lifetime of service to our community.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOHN SHAFFER ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2021*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that John Shaffer of Maumee, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

John's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2025. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

John brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2025. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, John participated in lacrosse, for which he earned his varsity letter. He also coached and refereed youth lacrosse.

After graduating Perrysburg High School in 2017, John attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida and majored in aeronautical engineering. He then went on to attend the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John Shaffer on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that John will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our nation.

### RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY

### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2021*

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of Memorial Day and in support of the countless men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the security and freedoms we enjoy in our republic.

Outside the United States Special Forces Training Center, there is a quote from John Stuart Mill that reads, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and